I CLAIM:

1. A method of brokering freight transportation routes, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving at a server computer from a computer of a transportation provider (TP) an available transportation capability of the TP;

(b) receiving at the server computer from a computer of a transportation buyer (TB) a transportation need of the TB;

(c) comparing at the server computer the available transportation capability of the TP and the transportation need of the TB;

(d) determining if the available transportation capability of the TP fulfills the transportation need of the TB;

(e) if the available transportation capability of the TP fulfills the transportation need of the TB, transmitting from the server computer to the computer of the TB the available transportation capability of the TP;

(f) in response to receiving the available transportation capability of the TP, transmitting from the computer of the TB to the server computer a bid by the TB for the available transportation capability of the TP;

(g) forwarding the bid from the server computer to the computer of the TP; and

(h) in response to receiving the bid from the server computer, transmitting a bid acceptance from the computer of the TP to the server computer.

2. The method as set forth in claim 1, further including the steps of:

(i) in response to the server computer receiving the bid, transmitting from the server computer to the computer of the TB a confirmation of the bid acceptance;

(j) preparing at the server computer from data stored thereat a bid acceptance contract, said data including boilerplate contract provisions and at least the names of the TB and the TP; and

(k)   transmitting the bid acceptance contract from the server computer to the computer of the TB and to the computer of the TP.

3.   The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein step (d) includes the steps of:

comparing the available transportation capability of the TP and the transportation need of the TB based on at least one predetermined rule; and

determining that the available transportation capability of the TP fulfills the transportation need of the TB when the at least one predetermined rule is satisfied, but when there not a direct match between the available transportation capability of the TP and the transportation need of the TB.

4.   A method of brokering freight transportation routes, the method comprising the steps of:

(a)   receiving at a server computer from a computer of a transportation provider (TP) an available transportation capability of the TP;

(b)   receiving at the server computer from a computer of a transportation buyer (TB) a transportation need of the TB;

(c)   comparing at the server computer the available transportation capability of the TP and the transportation need of the TB;

(d)   determining if the transportation needs of the TB is fulfilled by the available transportation capability of the TP;

(e)   if the transportation need of the TB is fulfilled by the available transportation capability of the TP, transmitting from the server computer to the computer of the TP the transportation need of the TB;

(f)   in response to receiving the transportation need of the TB, transmitting from the computer of the TP to the server computer a bid by the TP for the transportation need of the TB;

(g)   forwarding the bid from the server computer to the computer of the TB; and

(h)   in response to receiving the bid from the server computer, transmitting a bid acceptance from the computer of the TB to the server computer.

5.   The method as set forth in claim 4, further including the steps of:

(i)   in response to the server computer receiving the bid, transmitting from the server computer to the computer of the TP a confirmation of the bid acceptance;

(j)   preparing at the server computer from data stored thereat a bid acceptance contract, said data including boilerplate contract provisions and at least the names of the TB and the TP; and

(k)   transmitting the bid acceptance contract from the server computer to the computer of the TB and to the computer of the TP.

6.   The method as set forth in claim 4, wherein step (d) includes the steps of:

comparing the available transportation capability of the TP and the transportation need of the TB based on at least one predetermined rule; and

determining that the transportation need of the TB is fulfilled by the available transportation capability of the TP when the at least one predetermined rule is satisfied, but when there not a direct match between the available transportation capability of the TP and the transportation need of the TB.

7.   A method of brokering a warehouse space, the method comprising the steps of:

(a)   receiving at a server computer from a computer of a warehouse space provider (WSP) an available warehouse space capability of the WSP;

(b)   receiving at the server computer from a computer of a warehouse space buyer (WSB) a warehouse space need of the WSB;

(c)   comparing at the server computer the available warehouse space capability of the WSP and the warehouse space need of the WSB;

(d)   determining if the available warehouse space capability of the WSP fulfills the warehouse space need of the WSB;

- 23 -

(e)   if the available warehouse space capability of the WSP fulfills the warehouse space need of the WSB, transmitting from the server computer to the computer of the WSB the available warehouse space capability of the WSP;

(f)   in response to receiving the available warehouse space capability of the WSP, transmitting from the computer of the WSB to the server computer a bid by the WSB for the available warehouse space capability of the WSP;

(g)   forwarding the bid from the server computer to the computer of the WSP; and

(h)   in response to receiving the bid from the server computer, transmitting a bid acceptance from the computer of the WSP to the server computer.

8.   The method as set forth in claim 7, further including the steps of:

(i)   in response to the server computer receiving the bid, transmitting from the server computer to the computer of the WSB a confirmation of the bid acceptance;

(j)   preparing at the server computer from data stored thereat a bid acceptance contract, said data including boilerplate contract provisions and at least the names of WSB and WSP.

(k)   transmitting the bid acceptance contract from the server computer to the computer of the WSB and to the computer of the WSP.

9.   The method as set forth in claim 7, wherein step (d) includes the steps of:

comparing the available warehouse space capability of the WSP and the warehouse space need of the TB based on at least one predetermined rule; and

determining that the available warehouse space capability of the WSP fulfills the warehouse space need of the WSB when the at least one predetermined rule is satisfied, but when there not a direct match between the available warehouse space capability of the WSP and the warehouse space need of the WSB.

10.   A method of brokering a warehouse space, the method comprising the steps of:

- 24 -

(a)   receiving at a server computer from a computer of a warehouse space provider (WSP) an available warehouse space capability of the WSP;

(b)   receiving at the server computer from a computer of a warehouse space buyer (WSB) a warehouse space need of the WSB;

(c)   comparing at the server computer the available warehouse space capability of the WSP and the warehouse space need of the WSB;

(d)   determining if the available warehouse space need of the WSB is fulfilled by the warehouse space capability of the WSP;

(e)   if the warehouse space need of the WSB is fulfilled by the available warehouse space capability of the WSP, transmitting from the server computer to the computer of the WSP the warehouse space need of the WSB;

(f)   in response to receiving the warehouse space need of the WSB, transmitting from the computer of the WSP to the server computer a bid by the WSP for the warehouse space need of the WSB;

(g)   forwarding the bid from the server computer to the computer of the WSB; and

(h)   in response to receiving the bid from the server computer, transmitting a bid acceptance from the computer of the WSB to the server computer.

11.   The method as set forth in claim 10, further including the steps of:

(i)   in response to the server computer receiving the bid, transmitting from the server computer to the computer of the WSP a confirmation of the bid acceptance;

(j)   preparing at the server computer from data stored thereat a bid acceptance contract, said data including boilerplate contract provisions and at least the names of WSB and WSP; and

(k)   transmitting the bid acceptance contract from the server computer to the computer of the WSB and to the computer of the WSP.

12.   The method as set forth in claim 10, wherein step (d) includes the steps of:

comparing the available warehouse space capability of the WSP and the warehouse space need of the WSB based on at least one predetermined rule; and

determining that the warehouse space need of the WSB is fulfilled by the available warehouse space capability of the WSP fulfills when the at least one predetermined rule is satisfied, but when there not a direct match between the available warehouse space capability of the WSP and the warehouse space need of the WSB.